

FILED

JAN 22 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

DANIEL G. HAMM, TRUSTEE,

PLAINTIFF-APPELLANT,

V.

TOMEKA SCOTT JAMES, DEBTOR.

DEFENDANT-APPELLEE.

U. S. DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DIST. OF ALA.


CIVIL ACTION NO. 03-F-655-N

FINAL JUDGMENT

In accordance with the Memorandum Opinion entered on this day affirming the decision of the bankruptcy court:

1. Judgment is entered in favor of the Appellee, Tomeka Scott James, Debtor, and against Appellant, Daniel G. Hamm, Trustee in Bankruptcy.
2. Costs are taxed against the Appellant.

DONE this 22nd day of January, 2004.



MARK E. FULLER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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13

CIVIL APPEALS CHECKLIST

1. Appealable Orders: Courts of Appeals have jurisdiction conferred and strictly limited by statute:
Appeals from Final Orders Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1291: Only final judgments for orders of district courts (or final orders of bankruptcy courts which have been affirmed by a district court under 28 U.S.C. § 158) usually are appealable. A "final" order is one which ends the litigation on its merits and leaves nothing for the district court to do but execute the judgment. A magistrate's report and recommendation is not usually final until judgment thereon is entered by a district court judge. Compare Fed.R.App.P. 5.1, 28 U.S.C. § 636(c).

In cases involving multiple parties or multiple claims, a judgment as to fewer than all parties or all claims is not a final, appealable decision. Fed.R.Civ.P. 54(b) does permit the district court to expressly direct entry of the judgment as fewer than all of the claims or parties. See Pitney Bowes, Inc. v. Mestre, 701 F.2d 1365, 1369 (11th Cir. 1983), cert. denied 464 U.S. 893(1983). Certain matters, such as attorney's fees and costs, are collateral and do not effect the time for appealing from the judgment on the merits. Buchanan v. Stanhips, Inc., 495 U.S. 265, 108 S.Ct. 1130, 99 L.Ed 2d 289(1988); Budinich v. Becton, 485 U.S. 196, 108 S.Ct.1717, 100 L.Ed 2d 178 (1988)

Appeals Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b) and FRAP 5: The certificate specified in 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b) must be obtained before an application for leave to appeal is filed in the Court of Appeals. Denial or refusal by the district court to issue the certificate is not itself appealable.

Appeals Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(a): Pursuant to this statute, appeals are permitted from orders "granting, continuing, modifying, refusing or dissolving injunctions or refusing to dissolve or modify injunctions..." and "[I]nterlocutory decrees... determining the rights and liabilities of parties to admiralty cases..." This statute does not permit appeals from temporary restraining orders.

Appeals pursuant to Judicially Created Exceptions to the Finality Rule: These limited exceptions are discussed in many cases, including (but not limited to): Cohen v. Beneficial Industrial Loan Corp., 337 U.S. 541, 69 S.Ct. 1221, 93 L.Ed 2d 1528 (1953); Foray v. Conrad, 6 How. (47 U.S.) 201 (1848); Gillespie v. United States Steel Corp., 379 U.S. 148, 152, 85 S.Ct. 308, 311, 13 L.Ed 2d 199 (1964); Atlantic Federal Savings & Loan Assn. Of Ft. Lauderdale v. Blythe Eastman Paine Webber, Inc., 890 F.2d 371 (11th Cir. 1989). Compare Coopers and Lybrand v. Livesay, 437 U.S. 463, 98 S.Ct. 2454, 57 L.Ed 2d 351 (1978); Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. V. Mayacamas Corp., 485 U.S. 271, 108 S.Ct. 1133, 99 L.Ed 2d 296 (1988).

2. Time for Filing: To be effective a notice of appeal must be timely filed. Timely filing is jurisdictional. In civil cases FRAP 4(a) and 4(c) set the following time limits:

FRAP 4(a)(1): The notice of appeal required by FRAP 3 "must be filed with the clerk of the district court within 30 days after the date of entry of the judgment or order appealed from; but if the United States or an officer or agency thereof is a party, the notice of appeal may be filed by any party within 60 days after such entry..." (Emphasis added) To be effective, the notice of appeal generally must be filed in the district court clerk's office within the time permitted. If a notice of appeal is mailed, it must be timely received and filed by the district court to be effective. FRAP 4(c) establishes special filing provisions for notices of appeal filed by an inmate confined in an institution, as discussed below.

FRAP 4(a)(3): "If one party timely files a notice of appeal, any other party may file a notice of appeal within 14 days after the date when the first notice was filed, or within the time otherwise prescribed by this Rule 4(a), whichever period last expires." (Emphasis added)

FRAP 4(a)(4): If any party makes a timely motion in the district court under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure of a type specified in FRAP 4(a)(4), the time for appeal for all parties runs from the entry of the order disposing of the last such timely filed motion outstanding.

FRAP 4(a)(5) and FRAP 4(a)(6): The district court has power to extend the time to file a notice of appeal. Under FRAP 4(a)(5) the time may be extended if a motion for extension is filed within 30 days after expiration of the time otherwise permitted to file a notice of appeal. Under FRAP 4(a)(6) the time may be extended if the district court finds upon motion that a party has not received notice of entry of the judgment or order and that no party would be prejudiced by an extension.

FRAP 4(c): "If an inmate confined in an institution files a notice of appeal in either a civil case or a criminal case, the notice of appeal is timely if it is deposited in the institution's internal mail system on or before the last day for filing. Timely filing may be shown by a notarized statement or by a declaration (in compliance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746) setting forth the date of deposit and stating that first-class postage has been prepaid.

3. Format of Notice of Appeal: Form 1, FRAP Appendix of Forms, is a suitable format. See also FRAP 3(c). A single notice of appeal may be filed from a (single) judgment or order by two or more persons whose "interests are such as to make joinder practicable..." (FRAP 3(b))
4. Effect of Notice of Appeal: A district court loses jurisdiction (authority) to act after the filing of a timely notice of appeal, except for actions in aid of appellate jurisdiction (see Fed.R.Civ.P. 60) or to rule on a timely motion of the type specified in FRAP 4(a)(4).